

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 25, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 348**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Buchanan**  
**(Coauthor: Assembly Member Bonilla)**  
(Coauthors: Senators DeSaulnier and Hancock)

February 10, 2011

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An act to add and repeal Section 97.4 of the Streets and Highways Code, relating to highways.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 348, as amended, Buchanan. Highways: Safety Enhancement-Double Fine Zone.

Existing law requires the Department of Transportation to designate a state highway segment as a Safety Enhancement-Double Fine Zone if specified conditions are met, including that the governing board of the city or county in which the segment is located has by resolution indicated that it supports the designation.

This bill would, notwithstanding these requirements and until January 1, 2017, ~~designate~~ *provide for the designation of* the segment of county highway known as Vasco Road, between the State Highway Route 580 junction in Alameda County and the Walnut Boulevard intersection in Contra Costa County, as a Safety Enhancement-Double Fine Zone upon the approval of the boards of supervisors of Alameda County and Contra Costa County. The bill would also impose specified duties on the local

governing bodies regarding that double fine zone, *including a report to be submitted to the Legislature on the effectiveness of the zone.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 97.4 is added to the Streets and Highways  
2 Code, to read:

3 97.4. (a) Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 97, the  
4 segment of county highway known as Vasco Road, between the  
5 State Highway Route 580 junction in Alameda County and the  
6 Walnut Boulevard intersection in Contra Costa County, ~~shall~~ *may*  
7 be designated as the Vasco Road Safety Enhancement-Double  
8 Fine Zone upon the approval of resolutions of the Alameda County  
9 and Contra Costa County boards of supervisors supporting that  
10 designation.

11 (b) Each local governing body ~~in whose jurisdiction a double~~  
12 ~~fine zone is designated by~~ *that chooses to designate a double fine*  
13 *zone in its jurisdiction pursuant to this section shall, prior to the*  
14 establishment of a double fine zone, do all of the following:

15 (1) Undertake a public awareness campaign to inform the public  
16 of the double fine zone designation, where it is located, its purpose,  
17 and its consequences.

18 (2) Where appropriate, implement increased traffic safety  
19 enhancements, enforcement, and other roadway safety measures  
20 in coordination with the establishment of the double fine zone.

21 (c) The Vasco Road Safety Enhancement-Double Fine Zone is  
22 subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the department  
23 prescribing uniform standards for warning signs to notify motorists  
24 that, pursuant to Section 42010 of the Vehicle Code, increased  
25 penalties apply for traffic violations that are committed within a  
26 Safety Enhancement-Double Fine Zone as authorized under Section  
27 97.

28 (d) The local authority having jurisdiction over the Vasco Road  
29 Safety Enhancement-Double Fine Zone shall place and maintain  
30 the warning signs identifying these segments by stating that a  
31 “Special Safety Zone Region Begins Here” and a “Special Safety  
32 Zone Ends Here.”

1     ~~(e)~~ *If a double fine zone is designated pursuant to this section,*  
2 *the Counties of Alameda and Contra Costa shall jointly conduct*  
3 *an evaluation of its effectiveness and submit their findings in one*  
4 *report to the Assembly Committee on Transportation and the*  
5 *Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing one year prior*  
6 *to the termination of the double fine zone. The report shall include*  
7 *a recommendation on whether the zone should be reauthorized by*  
8 *the Legislature, as well as a comparative evaluation of the volume*  
9 *and speed of traffic, the number and severity of collisions, and the*  
10 *contributing factors that led to collisions prior to and following*  
11 *the establishment of the double fine zone.*

12     ~~(e)~~

13     ~~(f)~~ The Vasco Road Safety Enhancement-Double Fine Zone  
14 does not increase the civil liability of the state or local authority  
15 having jurisdiction over the highway segment under Division 3.6  
16 (commencing with Section 810) of Title 1 of the Government Code  
17 or any other law relating to civil liability.

18     ~~(f)~~

19     ~~(g)~~ (1) Only the base fine shall be enhanced pursuant to this  
20 section.

21     (2) Notwithstanding any other law, any additional penalty,  
22 forfeiture, or assessment imposed by any other statute shall be  
23 based on the amount of the base fine before enhancement or  
24 doubling and shall not be based on the amount of the enhanced  
25 fine imposed pursuant to this section.

26     ~~(g)~~

27     ~~(h)~~ This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2017,  
28 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that  
29 is enacted before January 1, 2017, deletes or extends that date.